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SUBJECT Interview with Herbert Scoville

BOB EDWARDS: Defense issues, including the controversial MX system, are also expected to cross the President's desk this week. The Administration has voiced its support of the MX and must now decide how to deploy the weapon.

Former CIA official Herbert Scoville has just written a book entitled "MX: Prescription for Disaster." He'd prefer to base the MX at sea.

HERBERT SCOVILLE: If you put the MX missile on small submarines, which might be 100 to 500 miles off our coasts, the Soviets cannot know where those submarines are, and therefore they can't target their warheads against them. So it doesn't make any difference whether the Soviets have 5000 warheads or 10,000 warheads or 20,000 warheads. The system is still survivable, and nobody can claim it is not survivable as long as it's on these submarines.

EDWARDS: That would retain the shell game aspect of it, but give you a...

SCOVILLE: Well, it wouldn't be the shell game, because the shell game -- the land-based shell-game system has 23 shelters, and the Soviets know where those 23 shelters are. And you try and fool the Russians as to which one of those 23 shelters has the MX missile in it.

That has two fundamental faults. One is that, in the first place, you're trying -- you're putting your whole security on being able to successfully deceive the Soviets. I just don't like our security to be based on that. But the other failure, and a very fundamental failure, is that that scheme assumes that

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